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Letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 3 April 2003 addressed to you by Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 2 April 2003 addressed to the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Papadopoulos, by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Denktaş, containing some ideas and measures aimed at building up trust and confidence between the two sides in Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

[2 April 2003]

Since our return from the Netherlands on 11 March 2003, I have been trying to reassess in depth the negotiating process resulting in the stalemate at The Hague.

On the basis of our re-evaluation and the responses given to the United Nations Secretary-General's proposals by both sides, I am now convinced more than ever that we have for too long overlooked the significance of the socio-psychological dimension of the problem, and especially the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides.

The Turkish Cypriot side sincerely wishes for a lasting settlement of the 40-year-old question of Cyprus. In achieving a sustainable and viable settlement that would be acceptable to both sides, the first meaningful step should, without doubt, be the improvement of the political environment to allow for the evolution of a working relationship between the two sides through the building up of trust and confidence. This would enable us to resolve pending issues, thus preparing the ground for a comprehensive settlement. The island is, no doubt, the common home of the two co-owner peoples in Cyprus.

In this context, I wish to share with you the following ideas and suggestions, which I believe could initiate a process of dialogue and consultation leading to a working relationship between us. This would greatly enhance the prospects for, and pave the way to, a mutually acceptable comprehensive settlement based on the political equality of the two sides and bring tangible benefits to both parties.

(a) As a first step, the fenced area of Varosha south of Dhimoktrathias street, including the area extending to the United Nations buffer zone, will be transferred to Greek Cypriot control to be opened for resettlement.

(b) Parallel to this, all restrictions on overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural and sporting activities coming from or going to both parts of Cyprus will be lifted. I am convinced that Turkey and Greece will also positively respond to this by removing the restrictions they apply to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides respectively. We shall invite the United Nations and the European Union to acknowledge and give effect to these arrangements.

(c) Freedom of movement will be facilitated between the two sides, subject only to minimal procedures. The restrictions on the movement of tourists will also be lifted.

(d) Steps will be taken gradually for the normalization of the flow of goods between the two parties on the island. Cooperation shall be also encouraged between the institutions of both sides to identify and develop joint projects.

(e) The Turkish Cypriot side will lift the measures of July 2000 regarding the movement of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

(f) A bilateral reconciliation committee will be established with the objective of promoting understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between the two parties. That committee will make specific recommendations for promoting bilateral contacts and projects.

These ideas and suggestions constitute a package and should be regarded as an integrated whole. The acceptance and implementation of this package will neither prejudice our respective positions nor be a substitute for a final settlement. I am prepared to discuss with you the above points and their modalities with the aim of initiating a cooperative relationship. In doing this, we could benefit from the assistance of the United Nations and the European Union. These measures, I believe, would bring a positive climate to the island and to our region.

On the basis of the foregoing, I am also ready to talk with you about the core issues of the comprehensive settlement and matters related to European Union membership with the objective of reaching a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

As we both support the good offices mission, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the United Nations Secretary-General.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**